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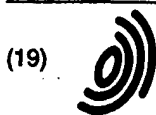
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(54) **ROTARY TOOTHBRUSH**

ROTIERENDE ZAHNBÜRSTE

BROSSE ROTATIVE POUR LES DENTS

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Descripti n

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a toothbrush of the type as 5 defined in the preamble of claim 1.

Background of the Invention

Power driven toothbrushes are very popular today. 10 The best known type resembles a common manual toothbrush, except that the brush head is vibrated or longitudinally reciprocated against the user's teeth. Although such power brushes simplify brushing of the teeth, to the extent that the amount of manual manipu- 15 lation of the toothbrush is reduced, the quality of the cleaning of the teeth is not improved, nor is the massag- ing of the gums.

It has long been recognized that previously unat- 20 tainable dental cleaning benefits can be achieved with a toothbrush that has twin rotary brushes which straddle the teeth and reciprocate angularly in unison. For exam- ple, in U.S. Patent No. 4,048,690, issued to Wolfson on September 20, 1977, a toothbrush is disclosed which 25 includes such rotary brushes, as well as an upwardly directed and a downwardly directed stationary brush between the rotary brushes. This toothbrush has the advantage of being able to clean both surfaces of both rows of teeth and the biting edges simultaneously. Since the toothbrush is powered, rotary brushes are particu- 30 larly effective at abrasively removing plaque and sweep- ing it away. However, the stationary brushes, which clean the biting surfaces of the teeth can be utilized only by moving the entire toothbrush and, in this sense, the toothbrush is no better than a manual toothbrush. Also, 35 the construction of this toothbrush proved to be too large and bulky to fit and operationally function within the mouths of persons have average or small mandib- les.

U.S. Patent No. 3,732,589, issued to Burki on May 40 15, 1973 discloses a powered rotary toothbrush in which radially directed bristles are provided between twin rotary brushes. Although this results in a reduced size and produces some power cleaning of the biting surfaces of the teeth, the rotary action of the radially directed bristles is not particularly effective in cleaning 45 the biting surfaces of the teeth. Manual movement of the toothbrush is still necessary.

U.S. Patent No. 4,766,630, issued to Hegemann on 50 August 30, 1988 discloses a powered toothbrush of the type as described in the preamble of claim 1 which includes a pair of longitudinally extending, reciprocal stroke arms extending between the rotary brushes and disposed above and below their axis of rotation, respec- 55 tively. The stroke arms are secured, by axially directed pins between the rotary brushes, and the portion of the upper arm between the rotary brushes includes upwardly directed bristles, while the portion of the lower stroke arm includes downwardly directed bristles. When

the stroke arms are oppositely reciprocated, annular movement of the rotary brushes is achieved. At the same time, the bristles on the stroke arm achieve recip- 60 rocal linear movement. For the first time, it was possible to achieve effective power cleaning of both surfaces and the biting edges of both rows of teeth simultaneously. However, the need to use the dual reciprocal arms made the body of the brush too bulky and interfered with convenient use of the brush.

The need exists for a toothbrush which has both 65 longitudinally and rotary reciprocating brushes to effectively clean the teeth and gums, but which is composed of relatively few components and is sufficiently small so that even users with smaller mandibles and mouths can use it without discomfort.

This need is fulfilled by a toothbrush as described in the characterizing portion of claim 1.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a powered toothbrush is provided 70 with a pair of disc-like rotary brushes mounted for rota- tion about a axis generally perpendicular to the length of the brush. The rotary brushes are in axially spaced rela- tionship and are provided with inwardly directed bristles. Between the rotary brushes, upper and lower linear 75 brushes are mounted above and below the axis of rota- tion for linear reciprocating motion generally perpendic- ular to that axis. The upper brush has upwardly directed bristles, and the lower brush has downwardly directed bristles, and the linear brushes are mounted to the rotary brushes so as to be brought into reciprocal, linear 80 movement when the rotary brushes are reciprocated angularly. Reciprocal motion can then be applied to one of the linear brushes or to the rotary brushes, in order to bring the entire mechanism into reciprocal motion.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The foregoing brief description, as well as further 85 objects, features and advantages of the present inven- tion will be understood more completely from the follow- ing detailed description of presently preferred embod- iments in accordance with the present invention, with reference being had to the accompanying draw- ings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective showing the forward portion of a rotary toothbrush embodying the present invention in an assembled position;

Figure 2 is an exploded perspective view corre- sponding to Fig. 1 and showing the components of the rotary toothbrush, with parts shown;

Figure 3 is a bottom plan view with respect to Fig. 1 showing a more extensive portion of the rotary toothbrush, with parts shown in section, to illustrate internal structural details;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary sectional view, taken along lines 4-4 of Figure 3 showing the front portion of the rotary toothbrush in an assembled position;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary schematic sectional view,

corresponding to Fig. 4, but showing the rear portion of the toothbrush on a reduced scale, and, in particular, showing its driving mechanism;

Figure 6 illustrates an alternate embodiment of the brush configuration of the rotary toothbrush;

Figure 7 is an enlarged, fragmentary, perspective view showing structural details at the rear of longitudinal arm 4;

Figure 8 is a rear view of an alternate embodiment 140 of the rear portion 40 of longitudinal shaft 4;

Figure 9 is a sectional view taken along line 9-9 in Fig. 8 and looking in the direction of the arrows, showing shaft 31 inserted within longitudinal arm 4 to illustrate their interaction;

Figure 10 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the entire toothbrush 1 shown assembled and including a rechargeable battery pack;

Figure 11 is a sectional view, similar to the left hand portion of Fig. 4, illustrating an alternate embodiment of the brush head assembly;

Figure 12 is a sectional view taken along line 11-11 in Fig. 11 looking towards the rear of the toothbrush;

Figure 13 is an exploded view of the battery charger and the battery pack utilized in toothbrush 1; and

Figure 14 is a right-side view with respect to Fig. 13, with the bottom portion shown in section, to illustrate the structural details of the battery charger and the battery pack.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

Referring now to the drawings wherein like reference numerals represent identical or corresponding parts throughout the several views, Figures 1 and 2 are fragmentary assembled and exploded views, respectively, of a rotary toothbrush 1 embodying the presently preferred form of the invention. Toothbrush 1 broadly comprises a brush head assembly 3, a housing 5, and a longitudinal driving arm 4 which is received in housing 5 and provides for movement of brush head assembly 3.

Brush head assembly 3 comprises a lower brush 6 disposed at the front end of longitudinal arm 4, an upper brush 8 disposed above lower brush 6, and a pair of rotary brushes 9 mounted on opposite sides of lower and upper brushes 6, 8 for rotation about an axis which is transverse relative to arm 4. The structure and interaction of these components is described in more detail below.

Lower brush 6 has a top surface 62, a bottom surface 64 and side surfaces 66. A pair of shafts 68 extend outwardly from respective opposite side surfaces 66, and a plurality of bristles 60 (Figure 4) extend perpendicularly downwardly from bottom surface 64. The bristles 60 are secured by conventional means, such as being received in holes formed in bottom surface 64.

Upper brush 8, is preferably the same size as lower brush 6 and has a top surface 82, a bottom surface 84

(see Figure 4) and side surfaces 86. A pair of shafts 88 extend outwardly from respective opposite side surfaces 86 of upper brush 8. A plurality of bristles 80, are preferably secured in holes formed in top surface 82, so as to extend perpendicularly upwardly from top surface 82 so that the bristles 80 of upper brush 8 and bristles 60 of lower brush 6 extend in opposite directions when the toothbrush is assembled, as shown in Figure 4.

A rotary brush 9, disc-like in configuration, is disposed on either side of the brushes 6 and 8. Each rotary brush 9 has a plurality of circumferentially spaced bristles 92 facing inwardly towards upper and lower brushes 8, 6. Bristles 92 are advantageously angled slightly radially outwardly in a direction away from the central axis of rotary brush 9 so that bristles 92 spread apart as they project upwardly.

A central portion of each rotary brush 9 includes three apertures having parallel axes: a central aperture 90, an upper aperture 92 and a lower aperture 94. The upper and lower apertures receive the shafts of upper and lower brushes 6 and, 8 respectively, and are preferably oblong, as will be explained further below.

Rotary brushes 9 are mounted on shafts 28 for rotation relative to housing 5 (discussed further below) with each shaft 88 of upper brush 8 extending within an upper aperture 94 and each shaft 68 of lower brush 6 is extending within a lower aperture 92. A wheel cap 167 is press-fitted within a circular recess formed in the outer surface of rotary brush 9 and conceals a snapping-like clip 168, which is mounted on and captures shaft 28 after it is passed through central aperture 90. When the brush head assembly 3 is assembled, upper brush 8 lies atop lower brush 6 so that bottom surface 84 of upper brush 6 and the top surface 62 of lower brush 6 are in abutment or close opposition, and shafts 88 are above shafts 68.

Lower brush 6 is mounted at the front end 42 of longitudinal arm 4 and is preferably integral therewith. Arm 4 is shaped so as to be substantially taller than it is wide, so that it projects substantially above the upper surface of brush 6. Brush 8 then fits into the "space" formed in the front of this upwardly projecting portion of arm 4. This results in a particularly compact construction, in which the reciprocating brushes 6, 8, hardly occupy more of vertical space than the arm 4 itself (see e.g. Fig. 4). The brush assembly therefore occupies minimum height, and this increases the comfort of the user of a toothbrush, particularly a user with a small mouth.

As best seen in Fig. 7, a tall, narrow passageway 44 is provided at the rear end 40 of arm 4 and extends forwardly within the arm. It is intersected by a passageway 45 which extends laterally through the arm at a position forward of the rear end 40. As will be described in further detail below, these passageways form part of a connecting arrangement which couples the rear end of arm 4 to a drive shaft of a driving mechanism, providing front-to-rear reciprocal motion to arm 4.

Turning now to the housing assembly 5, and in par-

ticular to Figures 1 and 3, housing assembly 5 includes a main body 2 and a driving mechanism 30 disposed within body 2. Body 2 is hollow and generally conically shaped. It tapers from a rear portion 20 to a front portion 22 so that its diameter in the rear is greater than its diameter in front. A front opening 26 is formed in the front portion 22, through which the longitudinal arm 4 is received in body 2, to connect with driving mechanism 30.

A pair of rigid, spaced apart, generally L-shaped supporting elements 28, project forwardly from body 2 on either side of opening 26. Each element 28 extends laterally outwardly in a direction away from longitudinal arm 4, to form an axle which is received in central aperture 90 of one of rotary brushes 9.

In the preferred embodiment, the body 2 is formed in two separate parts. The front part includes the supporting elements 28, 28, and the rear part includes the driving mechanism 30. These two parts are secured together by means of a bayonet-type connection (not shown), which permits the two parts of the body to be connected or disconnected by effecting a 90° relative rotation between the two parts. Since the front part of the body contains the brush assembly and the longitudinal arm 4, it is preferable to form the brush assembly, supporting elements 28 and the longitudinal arm 4 as a unit together with the front part of body 2. This unit is then readily removed and replaced as the various brushes wear out and need replacement.

The drive assembly 30 includes a drive shaft 31, which has an arrowhead-shaped tip 35 at its forward end. The tip 35 is relatively thin in its dimension perpendicular to the plane of Fig. 3. This thin dimension of tip 35 and its height are such that the tip will be received within passageway 44 formed at the rear end of arm 4 and, as arm 4 and shaft 31 are brought together, head 35 passes forwardly (indicated by the arrow in Fig. 7), beyond passageway 44 and into passageway 45. Subsequently, a 90° relative rotation is provided between the forward and rear portions of housing 2, in order to secure them together by means of a conventional bayonet-type connection (not shown). This causes head 35 to rotate 90° within passageway 45, whereby it is brought into the position shown in Figs. 3 and 4. In this position, tip 35 is captured within passage 45, since it is substantially taller than the width of passageway 44 and cannot be withdrawn therethrough.

At the rear of shaft 31, there is provided a yoke member 32 which includes an interior, oblong bearing surface 32a. A cylindrical cam element 34 is disposed within bearing 32 and is mounted for eccentric rotation about an axle 33 fixed within housing 5. Secured to cam element 34, but mounted for concentric rotation about axle 33 is a gear 36. In operation, when gear 36 is driven into rotation, cam element 34 is driven into eccentric rotary motion about axle 33. Since cam 34 is captured within yoke 32, shaft 31 is driven into linear, front-to-rear reciprocal motion. This, in turn, drives arm 4, which causes brush 6 to move linearly, whereby

brushes 9 are driven into angular reciprocal motion. The motion of brushes 9, in turn, causes brush 8 to move linearly.

Figure 5 is a schematic representation showing the rear portion of the drive assembly 30. In addition to the components already discussed, the toothbrush includes batteries 38 and 39 to provide electrical power, an electric motor 37 powered by the batteries, and a mechanical linkage 35 between motor 37 and gear 36. The mechanical linkage could simply be an arrangement of gears connecting gear 36 to the output shaft of motor 37.

Figure 6 illustrates an alternate embodiment 205 of a rotary toothbrush in accordance with the present invention. In this case, the rotary brushes 220 are mounted for rotation about a common axis and are driven into rotary motion in the same manner as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,732,589. The brush heads 200 and 210 are similar to brush head 8 of Figs. 2-4 and are mounted to the rotary brushes 220 in the same manner. Accordingly, when the lower rotary brush 220 is driven into rotation, the brushes 200 and 210 are driven into linear, reciprocal motion perpendicular to the plane of Fig. 6. This causes the upper rotary brush 220 to be driven into rotary motion. The rotary brushes 220 are provided with bristles 221, which correspond to the bristles 92 of brushes 9, and the brushes 200 and 210 are provided with bristles 201 and 211, respectively, which correspond to the bristles 80 of brush head 8. In addition, upper rotary brush head 220 is provided with outwardly directed bristles 223, to provide for more convenient polishing of the front of the teeth.

Figures 8 and 9 illustrate an alternate embodiment 140 of the rear end 40 of arm 4. Figure 9 should be compared to Fig. 3, which shows the arm 4 in a similar, cut-away view. In the rear portion 140, the arrowhead-shaped tip 35 is received in a passageway defined between two spaced arms 142. Each of these arms includes a forwardly and radially inwardly tapering ramped face 144, which terminates in substantially vertical (in Fig. 9) face 146. In use, if the head 35 were inserted in the rear of arm 4, between arms 142, while in the orientation shown in Fig. 8, the shape of the head and the ramped surfaces 144 would cause the arms 142 to spread due to their resilience, as head 35 is urged forward. When head 35 clears the surfaces 146, the arms 142 snap back towards each other, owing to their resilience, capturing head 35 as shown in Fig. 8. As a result of this construction, it is not necessary to bring arm 4 to its rearmost position prior to assembling the toothbrush head to the main body. If such assembly takes place with the arm 4 in its forward position, when shaft 31 begins reciprocating, it will be forced into the rear of arm 4, and the connection will be made as explained above.

As best seen in Fig. 8, ramp surfaces 144 do not extend for the full height of the arms 142. Instead, diagonally opposite corners 146 of the arms are left intact. This is beneficial, because rear portion 140 is relatively

small and would tend to be too flexible or too weak if there were full height ramped surfaces 144.

Figure 10 is an assembled view of a preferred embodiment of the entire toothbrush 1, intended to illustrate the rechargeable battery feature of the present invention. Rechargeable batteries are stored in a battery pack or housing 150 (discussed in further detail below), which is slidably received in the bottom of the toothbrush. Battery housing 150 may be removed from the toothbrush by operating a spring loaded latch or locking mechanism 180, to release it.

The battery pack or housing 150 is illustrated in greater detail in Figs 13 and 14, in conjunction with a battery charger 170. Battery charger 170 is provided with a conventional electrical plug 172, so that it may be plugged directly into an outlet for house circuit. The battery charger 170 is provided with an open bottom 173 and is made hollow to include a receiving compartment 174 for the battery pack 150, which is inserted through the open bottom 173.

Battery pack 150 includes a single upright groove 152 on one surface and a pair of upright grooves 154 on the opposite surface. These grooves slidably receive ribs 176 on the interior of compartment 174 of charger 170. This assures that the battery pack 150 can be received within charger 170 in only one orientation, whereby the terminals 156, 158 of the battery pack 150 are always in a correct electrical orientation.

Battery pack 150 also includes a rectangular recess 160. Within recess 160, a ramp surface 162 slopes upwardly and inwardly into the battery pack. Surface 162 terminates at an upper edge wall 164 of recess 160. Wall 164 is generally perpendicular to the outer surface of the battery pack. Just above the opening 173, charger 170 includes a locking mechanism 180, which is pivotally mounted at 182 and loaded by a spring 184, which urges the rear end 186 of locking mechanism 180 towards the interior of the battery compartment in charger 170. When battery pack 150 is inserted into storage compartment 174 of charger 170 and moved upward, spring 184 will urge rear end 186 into recess 160 as soon as wall 164 passes end 186. This causes the battery pack 150 to be locked within the compartment 174, so that its terminals 156 and 158 are in electrical contact with mating terminals within charger 170. If charger 170 is plugged into an electrical outlet, battery pack 150 will then be charged. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the upper portion of charger 170 must include conventional circuitry to convert alternating current power to a direct current voltage necessary to charge the battery pack 150. Battery pack 150 may be removed from charger 170 by pressing the bottom of locking mechanism 180 inward until its end 186 is withdrawn from recess 160 within the battery pack 150. The battery pack will then drop downwardly, out of compartment 174.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the bottom of toothbrush 1 must be constructed in the same manner as the bottom of charger 170. This permits

insertion, retention and removal of battery pack 150 in the same manner as described with respect to battery charger 170.

Figures 11 and 12 illustrate an alternate embodiment 203 of brush head assembly 3. In this embodiment, corresponding elements have been numbered with the same reference characters as appear in Fig. 4. The essential difference in brush head assembly 203 lies in the construction of the upper brush 8. As previously explained, the brush 8 is constructed to fit and slide within the "space" formed at the front 42 of arm 4. In brush head assembly 203, upper brush 8 includes a semi-cylindrical, rearwardly projecting guide arm 87, the flat surface 89 of which is in sliding contact with surface 162 of arm 4. Guide arm 87 is received in front opening 26 of toothbrush body 20, along with longitudinal arm 4. This assures that flat surface 89 will remain in intimate sliding contact with surface 162. The overall effect of providing guide arm 87 is to assure that brush 8 experiences only linear motion and does not pivot about an axis passing through the shafts 88, 88'.

A somewhat less effective, but nonetheless useful, toothbrush would be obtained if only one rotary brush were used. It would still be possible to utilize two linear brushes.

Claims

1. A toothbrush of the type including an elongated main body, a generally disc-shaped rotary brush (9;220) mounted for rotational movement on an axle (28) which is transverse to the length of said body, the rotary brush having generally axially directed peripheral bristles (92;221), means (30) at least partially disposed in said main body for providing reciprocating, rotary motion to said rotary brush (9;220), and a linear brush (8;200) having bristles (80;201) directed away from said axle (28), said linear brush (8;200) being mounted to said rotary brush (9;220); characterized in that the axle (28) is stationary relative to said body and said linear brush (8;200) is mounted to be driven by said rotary brush (9;220) so as to reciprocate linearly along the length of said body as said rotary brush (9;220) reciprocates rotationally.
2. A toothbrush in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a second linear brush (6;210) having bristles (60;211) directed away from said axis (28) and oppositely to the bristles (80;201) of the other linear brush (8;200), and means for mounting said linear brush to said rotary brush (220) so that said second linear brush (6;210) reciprocates linearly along the length of said body as said rotary brush reciprocates (9;220) rotationally.
3. A toothbrush in accordance with claim 1 or 2, wherein said means (30) comprises means for

applying a rotary driving force to said rotary brush (9,220).

4. A toothbrush in accordance with claim 1 or 2, wherein said means (30) for providing reciprocating, rotary motion comprises a longitudinal arm (4) mounted for reciprocal movement along the length of said body, said arm being connected at a first end to a linear brush (6), said arm (4) imparting linear motion to said linear brush, the means for mounting said linear brush (6) producing reciprocating rotary motion of the rotary brush (9).
5. A toothbrush in accordance with claim 4 further comprising a guide arm (87) projecting from said linear brushes (8) and means (162) for retaining said guide arm in a fixed orientation for sliding movement relative to said longitudinal arm (4).
6. A toothbrush in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 5, further comprising:
 - a second generally disc-shaped rotary brush (9,220) having peripheral bristles (92,221) generally axially directed towards the other rotary brush;
 - second axle means (28) mounting said second rotary brush for rotational movement about said axis;
 - said linear brush (8;200,210) being also mounted to said second rotary brush so as to be reciprocated linearly when said rotary brushes experience reciprocating rotary motion.
7. A toothbrush in accordance with any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein said longitudinal arm (4) is coupled at a second end (40) to a linearly reciprocating drive shaft (31), said longitudinal arm (4) having a tall, narrow passageway (44) extending therein to from said second end (40) and a laterally directed passageway (45) extending therethrough at a distance away from said second end, a drive shaft (31) having a forward portion (35) dimensioned and shaped to be received in said tall, narrow passageway (44), said forward portion, terminating at a short distance rearward of said drive shaft, whereby said drive shaft may be inserted into said tall, narrow passageway and moved forward into said lateral passageway, wherein relative rotation between said longitudinal arm (4) and said drive shaft (31) causes said forward portion of said drive shaft to be captured within said lateral passageway.
8. A toothbrush in accordance with claim 7 wherein said forward portion (35) is substantially larger in height than the width of said passageway (44),

whereby relative rotation between longitudinal arm (4) and said drive shaft (31) causes said forward portion of said drive shaft to extend into said lateral passageway (45) and to be captured therein.

9. A toothbrush in accordance with any one of claims 4 to 6 wherein said longitudinal arm (4) is coupled at a second end (140) to a linearly reciprocating drive shaft (31), said longitudinal arm has a pair of opposed arms (142) projecting beyond its second end (140) as an extension thereof, each opposed arm (142) having a sloped surface (144) facing the other opposed arm to form a gap between said opposed arms which tapers towards said second end, a drive shaft (31) having a tapered end (35) conforming generally in taper to the gap between said opposed arms (142), the tapered end (35) of said drive shaft being too large to fit through said gap, the opposed arms (142) separating to admit said tapered end when it is urged into said gap.
10. A toothbrush in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 9 further comprising means defining a compartment in said toothbrush, a battery pack (150) dimensioned and shaped to be slidably received in said compartment and means (180) for releasably retaining said battery pack in said compartment.
11. In combination with a toothbrush in accordance with claim 10, a battery charger (170) including a charging compartment (174) and releasable retaining means substantially identical to the same components in said toothbrush, said battery pack (150) comprising at least one rechargeable battery, whereby said battery pack may be recharged in the battery charger and utilized in the toothbrush by transferring the battery pack therebetween.

Patentansprüche

1. Zahnbürste derjenigen Art, die einen langgestreckten Hauptkörper, eine im wesentlichen scheibenförmige Drehbürste (9, 220), die für eine Drehbewegung an einer Achse (28) montiert ist, die sich quer zur Länge des Körpers erstreckt, wobei die Drehbürste im wesentlichen axial gerichtete Umfangsbürsten (92, 221) aufweist, eine Einrichtung (30), die mindestens teilweise im Hauptkörper angeordnet ist, um der Drehbürste (9; 220) eine reziproke Drehbewegung zu verleihen, und eine Linearbürste (8; 200) enthält, die von der Achse (28) weg gerichtete Borsten (80; 201) enthält, wobei die Linearbürste (8, 200) an der Drehbürste (9; 220) montiert ist; dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Achse (28) relativ zum Körper stationär ist und die Linearbürste (8; 200) so montiert ist, daß sie durch die Drehbürste (9; 220) angetrieben wird, um sich linear entlang der Länge des Körpers hin- und herzubewegen.

wegen, wenn sich die Drehbürste (9, 220) reziprok dreht.

2. Zahnbürste nach Anspruch 1, ferner enthaltend eine zweite Linearbürste (6; 210) mit Borsten (60; 211) enthält, die von der Achse (28) weg und den Borsten (80, 201) der anderen Linearbürste (8; 200) gegenüberliegend angeordnet sind, und mit einer Einrichtung zum Montieren der Linearbürste an der Drehbürste (220), so daß die zweite Linearbürste (6; 210) sich entlang der Länge des Körpers linear hin- und herbewegt, wenn sich die Drehbürste (9; 220) reziprok dreht. 5
3. Zahnbürste nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, wobei die Einrichtung (30) eine Einrichtung zum Aufbringen einer Antriebsdrehkraft auf die Drehbürste (9, 220) umfaßt. 10
4. Zahnbürste nach einem der Ansprüche 1 oder 2, wobei die Einrichtung (30) zum Aufbringen der reziproken Drehbewegung einen Längsarm (4) enthält, der für eine hin- und hergehende Bewegung entlang der Länge des Körpers montiert ist, wobei der Arm an einem ersten Ende mit einer Linearbürste (6) verbunden ist, der Arm (4) der Linearbürste eine Linearbewegung verleiht und die Einrichtung zum Montieren der Linearbürste (6) eine reziproke Drehbewegung der Drehbürste (9) erzeugt. 15
5. Zahnbürste nach Anspruch 4, ferner enthaltend einen Führungsarm (87), der von den Linearbürsten (8) vorsteht, und eine Einrichtung (162) zum Zurückhalten des Führungsarms in einer festen Ausrichtung für eine Gleitbewegung relativ zum Längsarm (4). 20
6. Zahnbürste nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5, ferner enthaltend: 25
 - eine zweite im wesentlichen scheibenförmige Drehbürste (9, 220), die Umfangsborsten (92, 221) aufweist, die im wesentlichen axial in Richtung auf die andere Drehbürste gerichtet sind; 30
 - eine zweite Achseinrichtung (28), die die zweite Drehbürste für eine Drehbewegung um die Achse montiert; 35
 - wobei die Linearbürste (8; 200, 210) ebenfalls an der zweiten Drehbürste montiert ist, so daß sie sich linear hin- und hergehend bewegt, wenn die Drehbürsten eine reziproke Drehbewegung zeigen. 40
7. Zahnbürste nach einem der Ansprüche 4 bis 6, wobei der Längsarm (4) mit einem zweiten Ende (40) mit einer linear hin- und hergehenden 45
8. Zahnbürste nach Anspruch 7, wobei der vordere Bereich (35) in der Höhe merklich größer ist als die Breite des Durchgangs (44), wodurch einen Relativdrehung zwischen dem Längsarm (4) und der Antriebswelle (31) den vorderen Bereich der Antriebswelle veranlaßt, sich in den seitlichen Durchgang (45) hineinzuerstrecken und dort eingefangen zu werden. 50
9. Zahnbürste nach einem der Ansprüche 4 bis 6, wobei der Längsarm (4) mit einem zweiten Ende (140) mit einer sich linear hin- und herbewegenden Antriebswelle (31) gekoppelt ist, wobei der Längsarm ein Paar gegenüberliegender Arme (142) aufweist, die sich hinter sein zweites Ende (140) als seine Verlängerung erstrecken, wobei jeder gegenüberliegende Arm (142) eine geneigte Oberfläche (144) aufweist, die in Richtung auf den anderen, gegenüberliegenden Arm weist, um einen Spalt zwischen den gegenüberliegenden Armen zu bilden, der sich in Richtung auf das zweite Ende verjüngt, wobei eine Antriebswelle (31) ein sich verjüngendes Ende (35) aufweist, das im Hinblick auf seine Verjüngung etwa dem Spalt zwischen den gegenüberliegenden Armen (142) entspricht; wobei das sich verjüngende Ende (35) der Antriebswelle zu groß ist, um durch den Spalt zu passen, wobei sich die gegenüberliegenden Arme (142) auseinanderbewegen, um das sich verjüngende Ende aufzunehmen, wenn es in den Spalt gedrückt wird. 55
10. Zahnbürste nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 9, ferner enthaltend eine Einrichtung, die ein Abteil in der Zahnbürste bildet, eine Batterieeinheit (150), die so dimensioniert und geformt ist, daß sie gleitend im Abteil aufnehmbar ist, und eine Einrichtung (180) zum lösbaren Zurückhalten der Batterieeinheit im Abteil.

11. In Kombination mit einer Zahnbürste gemäß Anspruch 10 ist ein Batterie-Ladegerät (170) vorgesehen, das ein Ladeabteil (174) und eine lösbare Rückhalteeinrichtung aufweist, die im wesentlichen identisch sind mit den gleichen Komponenten der Zahnbürste, wobei die Batterieeinheit (150) mindestens eine wiederaufladbare Batterie enthält, wodurch die Batterieeinheit in dem Batterie-Ladegerät aufladbar und in der Zahnbürste verwendbar ist, indem man die Batterieeinheit dazwischen austauscht.

Revendications

1. Brosse à dents du type comprenant un corps principal allongé, une brosse rotative (9, 220) globalement en forme de disque, montée tournante sur un axe (28) qui est transversal par rapport à la longueur dudit corps, la brosse rotative ayant des poils périphériques (92, 221) orientés globalement axialement, un moyen (30) disposé au moins partiellement dans ledit corps principal, afin de fournir un mouvement rotatif de va-et-vient à ladite brosse rotative (9; 220), et une brosse linéaire (8; 200) ayant des poils (80; 201) orientés en s'éloignant dudit axe (28), ladite brosse linéaire (8; 200) étant montée sur ladite brosse rotative (9; 220); caractérisée en ce que l'axe (28) est stationnaire par rapport audit corps et ladite brosse linéaire (8; 200) est montée de façon à être entraînée par ladite brosse rotative (9; 220), de manière à se déplacer de façon rectiligne en va-et-vient sur la longueur dudit corps, lorsque ladite brosse rotative (9; 220) se déplace en va-et-vient en rotation.
2. Brosse à dents selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre une deuxième brosse linéaire (6; 210) ayant des poils (60; 211) orientés en s'éloignant dudit axe (28) et à l'opposé des poils (80; 201) de l'autre brosse linéaire (8; 200), et un moyen de montage de ladite brosse linéaire sur ladite brosse rotative (220), de manière que ladite deuxième brosse linéaire (6; 210) se déplace en va-et-vient de façon rectiligne sur la longueur dudit corps, lorsque ladite brosse rotative (9; 220) se déplace en va-et-vient en rotation.
3. Brosse à dents selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans laquelle ledit moyen (30) comprend un moyen d'application d'une force d'entraînement en rotation à ladite brosse rotative (9; 220).
4. Brosse à dents selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans laquelle ledit moyen (30), conférant un mouvement rotatif de va-et-vient, comprend un bras longitudinal (4) monté de façon à se déplacer en va-et-vient sur la longueur dudit corps, ledit bras étant relié par une première extrémité à une brosse linéaire (6), ledit bras (4) conférant un mouvement rectiligne à

ladite brosse linéaire, le moyen de montage de ladite brosse linéaire (6) produisant un mouvement rotatif de va-et-vient de la brosse rotative (9).

5. Brosse à dents selon la revendication 4, comprenant en outre un bras de guidage (87) faisant saillie de ladite brosse linéaire (8) et un moyen (162) retenant ledit bras de guidage dans une orientation fixe, afin de permettre un mouvement de coulisement par rapport audit bras longitudinal (4).
6. Brosse à dents selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5, comprenant en outre :
 - une deuxième brosse (9, 220) globalement en forme de disque, ayant des poils périphériques (92, 221) orientés globalement axialement vers l'autre brosse rotative;
 - un deuxième moyen formant axe (28) servant au montage de ladite deuxième brosse rotative afin de tourner autour dudit axe;
 - ladite brosse linéaire (8; 200, 210) étant également montée sur ladite deuxième brosse rotative, de manière à être déplacée en va-et-vient de façon rectiligne lorsque lesdites brosses rotatives rencontrent un mouvement rotatif de va-et-vient.
7. Brosse à dents selon l'une quelconque des revendications 4 à 6, dans laquelle ledit bras longitudinal (4) est couplé, par une deuxième extrémité (40), à un arbre d'entraînement (31) se déplaçant en va-et-vient de façon rectiligne, ledit bras longitudinal (4) ayant un grand passage étroit (34) s'étendant en son sein depuis ladite deuxième extrémité (40) et un passage (45) orienté latéralement s'étendant en son sein, à distance de ladite deuxième extrémité, un arbre d'entraînement (31) ayant une partie avant (35) dimensionnée et formée de façon à être logée dans ledit grand passage étroit (44), ladite partie avant se terminant à une courte distance à l'arrière dudit arbre d'entraînement, de manière que ledit arbre d'entraînement puisse être inséré dans ledit grand passage étroit et déplacé vers l'avant afin d'entrer dans ledit passage latéral, dans lequel une rotation relative entre ledit bras longitudinal (7) et ledit arbre d'entraînement (31) force ladite partie avant dudit arbre d'entraînement à être piégée dans ledit passage latéral.
8. Brosse à dents selon la revendication 7, dans laquelle ladite partie avant (35) présente une hauteur sensiblement supérieure à la largeur dudit passage (44), de manière qu'une rotation relative entre le bras longitudinal (4) et ledit arbre d'entraînement (31) force ladite partie avant dudit arbre d'entraînement à s'étendre dans ledit passage latéral (45) et

à y être piégée.

9. Brosse à dents selon l'une quelconque des revendications 4 à 6, dans laquelle ledit bras longitudinal (4) est couplé, par une deuxième extrémité (140), à un arbre d'entraînement (31) se déplaçant en va-et-vient de façon rectiligne, ledit bras longitudinal présente un couple de bras (142) opposés, faisant saillie au-delà de sa deuxième extrémité (140), à titre de prolongement de cette dernière, chaque bras (142) opposé ayant une surface inclinée (144) tournée vers l'autre bras opposé, afin de former un jeu entre lesdits bras opposés qui s'effile en direction de ladite deuxième extrémité, un arbre d'entraînement (31) ayant une extrémité effilée (35) se conformant globalement à l'effilement du jeu entre lesdits bras (142) opposés, l'extrémité effilée (35) dudit arbre d'entraînement étant trop grande pour s'insérer dans ledit jeu, les bras (142) opposés se séparant afin d'admettre ladite extrémité effilée lorsqu'elle est poussée dans ledit jeu.
10. Brosse à dents selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 9, comprenant en outre un moyen définissant un compartiment dans ladite brosse à dents, un boîtier de pile (150) dimensionné et formé de façon à être logé à coulissement dans ledit compartiment et un moyen (180) retenant de manière amovible ledit boîtier de pile dans ledit compartiment.
11. Chargeur de pile (170), en combinaison avec une brosse à dents selon la revendication 10, comprenant un compartiment de chargement (174) et un moyen de maintien amovible sensiblement identique aux mêmes composants que ceux inclus dans ladite brosse à dents, ledit boîtier de pile (150) comprenant au moins une pile rechargeable, de manière que ledit boîtier de pile puisse être rechargé dans le chargeur de batterie et utilisé dans la brosse à dents, en transférant entre eux le boîtier de pile.

FIG. 1

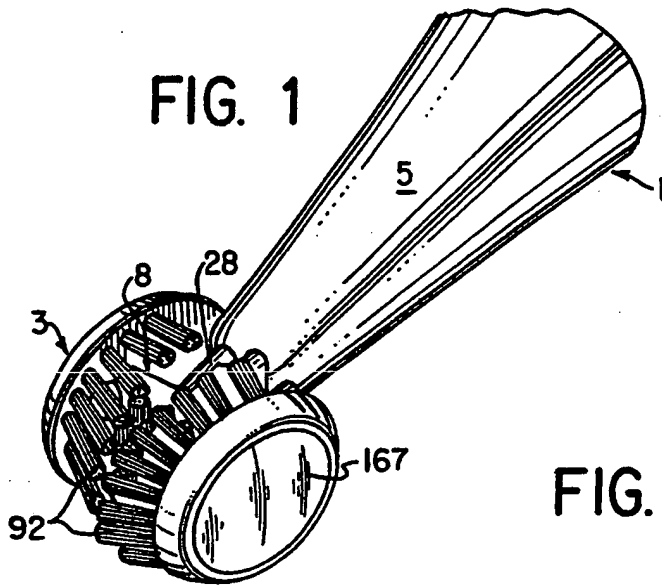
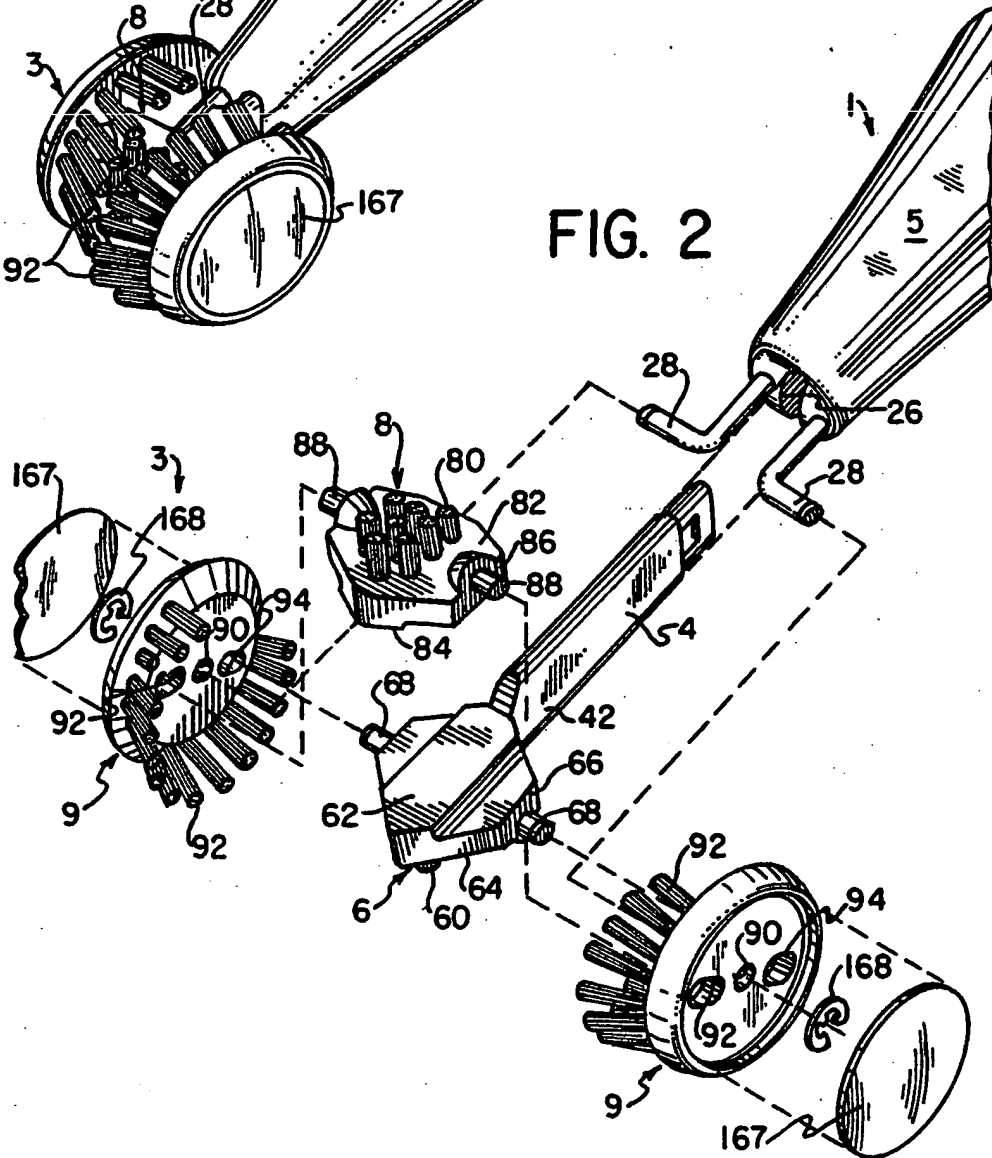


FIG. 2



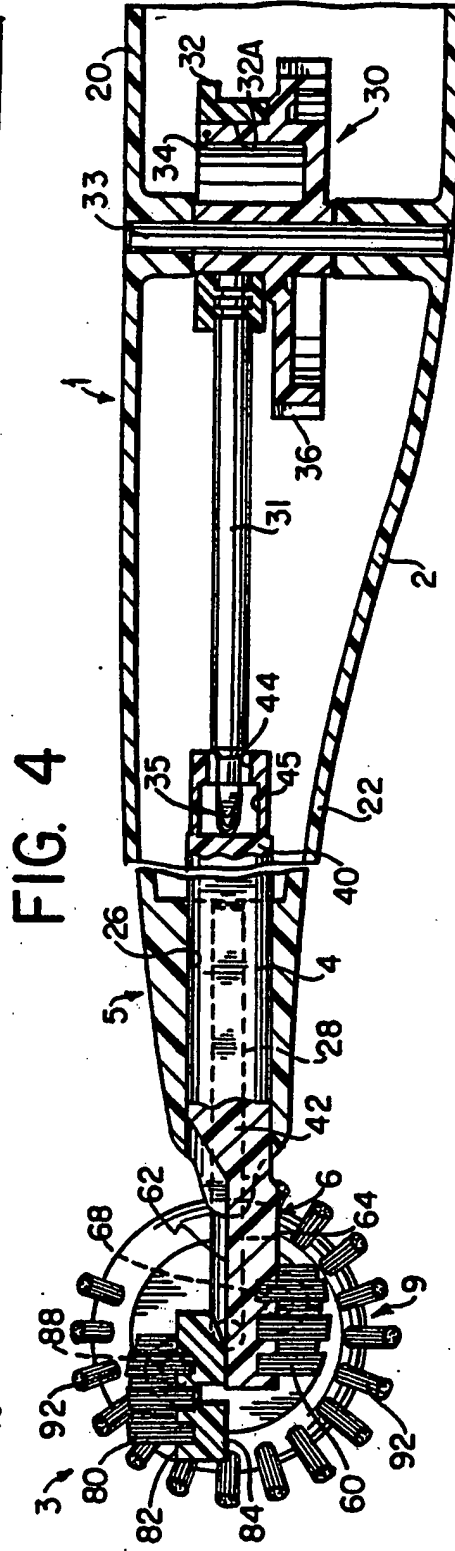
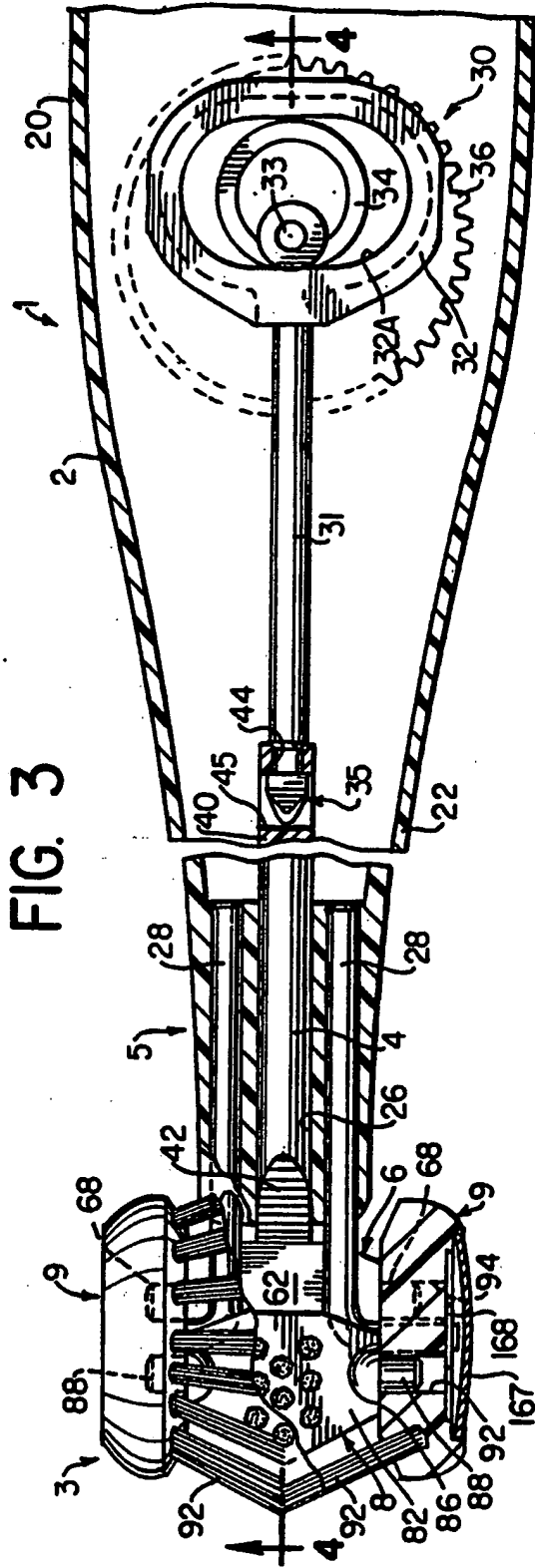


FIG. 5

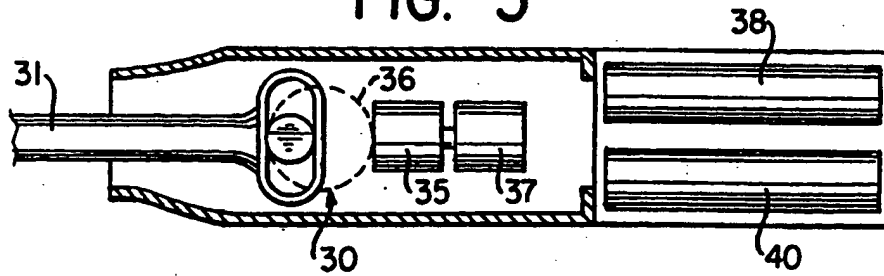


FIG. 6

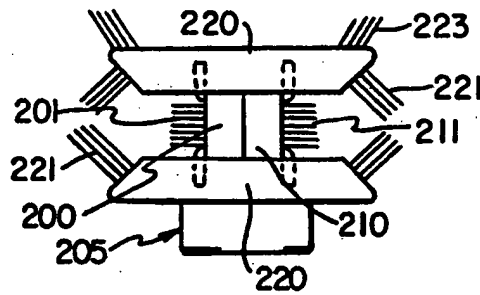


FIG. 7

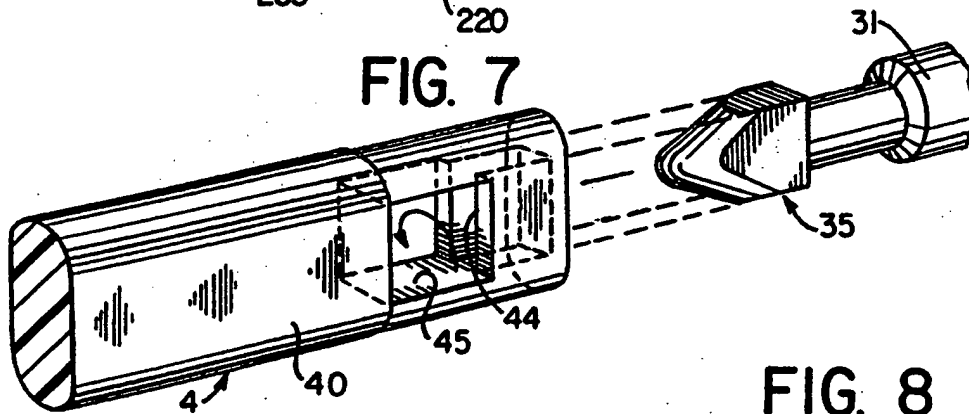


FIG. 8

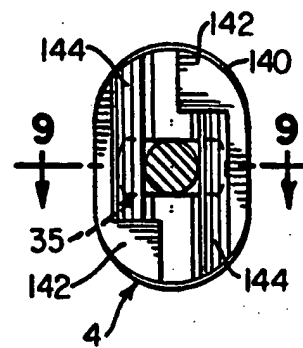


FIG. 9

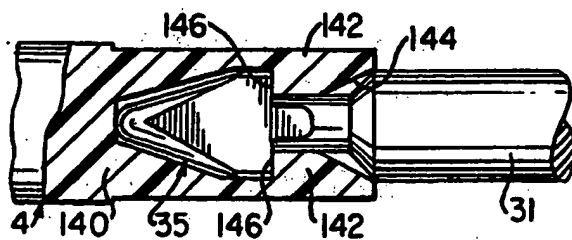


FIG. 10

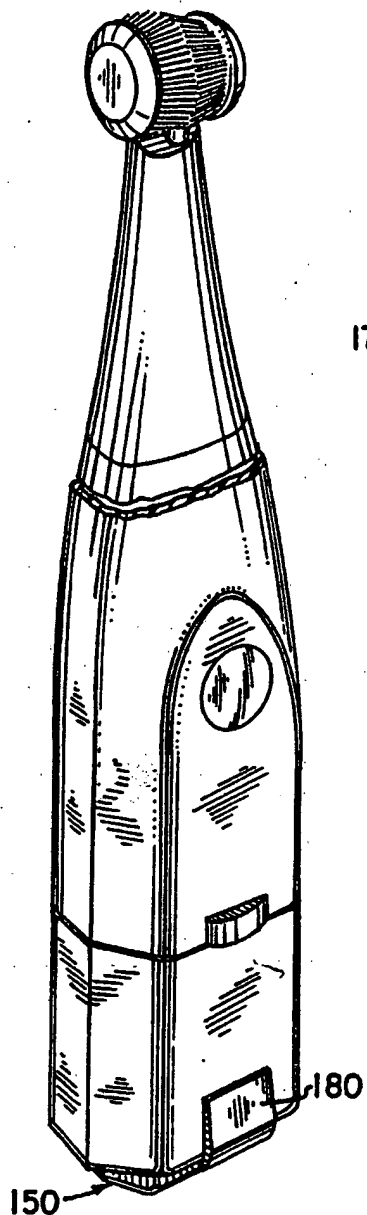


FIG. 13

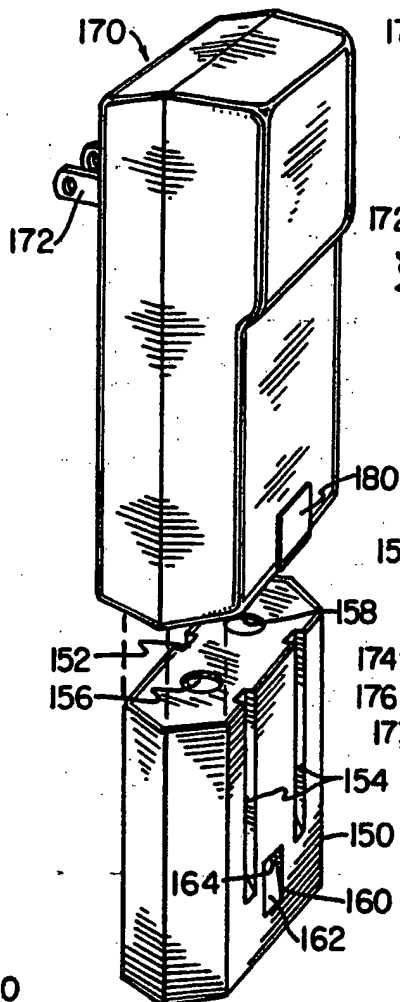


FIG. 14

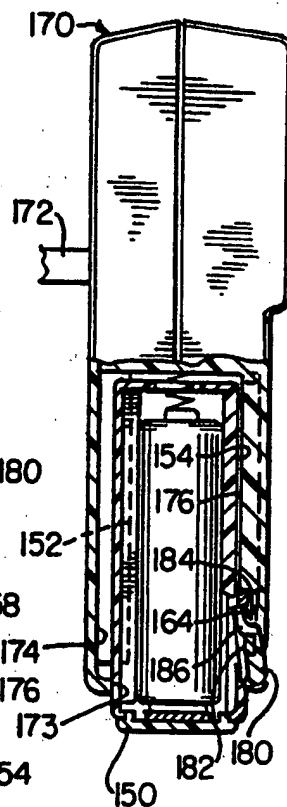


FIG. 11

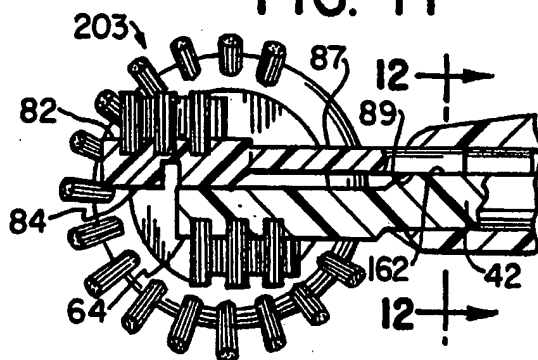
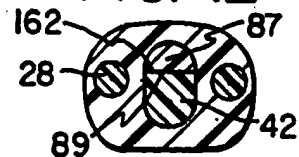


FIG. 12



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